88. Water supply in the town of Shencottah.

Mr. P. Chellasami Chinnananja Pandyan (Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah) represented that the town of Shencottah was very badly in need of water both for drinking and other purposes, and the grievances relating to scarcity of water were not redressed even though the same was represented on many occasions in the Assembly. The Member said that before doing anything for Shencottah in the matter of supply of water, the disposal of the Perumalkulam tank—the most insanitary of the three tanks of the town—should be taken up for consideration. The tank measured 6 acres and 33 cents and was the source of water supply to 7 acres and 81 cents of nanja lands. The tank being a source of several epidemic diseases and being very unhealthy to the people around and close to it, the Member proposed that the tank including the nanja lands measuring in all about 15 acres should be acquired by Government, as suggested by Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar at the 10th session of the Assembly. The Member observed that, though there was some correspondence between the Department of Public Works, the Dewan Peishkar, the Municipality and Government, as a result of Mr. Karayalar's suggestion, no final decision had been arrived at. After acquiring the tank and the adjoining nanja lands by Government, the Member said that the tank should be filled up and the paddy lands levelled and the whole area should be subdivided into rectangular blocks for building houses with streets in the middle and those sites might be sold to the people to build houses. The Member also suggested that a small masonry tank (Theppakulam) for water supply should be provided in the Perumalkulam tank, measuring about 40 to 50 feet in diameter, and should be deepened by 10 feet below the present lowest point and that after leaving a foot path or road about 12 feet space round the masonry tank, the remaining area should be sold to the public to build houses. By acquiring the tank, preparing it for house sites and then selling it off for building houses, the Government would not, the Member said, be losers, but on the other hand would be profited. The Member also requested Government to sink not less than half a dozen wells in convenient localities in the town with a view to relieve the people from distress on account of scarcity of water.

Dewan.—Can the cost of the scheme referred to by you be met by the sale of the site?

Member.—Yes.

Dewan.—Then why should not the Municipality undertake the work, and make some money out of it? That is what the Regulation wants Municipalities to do. You may borrow the money in the first instance and you may acquire the lands, sell them, repay the loan and even make a profit. That was what the Trivandrum Municipal Member was saying. Why should the Municipality come to Government for doing this? As regards wells, the Municipality can get them sunk through a contractor. You probably want the cost to be borne by Government. I do not think these wells are beyond your means. If it is a question of a big water supply scheme where lakhs of rupees have to be invested, it is reasonable to expect Government to help the concern. The sinking of half a dozen wells may not cost very much.

89. The undesirability of introducing taxation in all the municipal towns on a uniform basis.

Mr. Jacob Kurien (Member, Municipal Council, Mavelikara) submitted that the sanitation and conservancy of the minor municipal towns was originally in the hands of the Sanitary department and that the towns were kept well under their supervision. With the starting of Town Improvement Committees in those towns the only extra benefit they conferred on the people was the provision of street lights. Even that service was not adequately done. The Town Improvement Committees were not able to give satisfaction to the people as they were lacking in funds. Confining his remarks to Mavelikara, the Member pointed out that the Municipality was handicapped for want of funds. At present the expansion of a municipal town was carried out with a view to bring within its limits paying markets. He then observed

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